

STATEMENT BY J. FROM THURMOND, CANDIDATE FOR THE UNITED STATES
SENATE, AT CAMPAIGN MEETING AT ANDERSON,
JUNE 28, 1950, 11 A.M.

CIO POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Today I want to tell you something about the outside influences which are operating in South Carolina to dominate this Senatorial primary. The only way you are going to get any information about them is hearing me today or listening to the radio. You will never learn the truth from your local newspapers.

Of all the travesties on American journalism and our great institution of a free press, you have the worst right here in Anderson. An editor has a right to say what he pleases about a candidate or a public official, but when his newspaper distorts its news columns and fails to give an unbiased presentation of the news, then that newspaper is dishonest with its readers and the public it is supposed to serve.

I sympathize with you good people in Anderson on this affliction.

Many weeks ago the CIO Political Action Committee bosses had a meeting. They made up two lists. One was of members of Congress the organization would work to defeat. The other was a list of members of Congress the CIO Political Action Committee would work to re-elect.

The CIO Political Action Committee raised a slush fund of a million dollars to carry out their program to purge members of Congress whom they could not control and re-elect those who jump through a hoop every time CIO bosses crack the whip.

My opponent in this race, along with Senator Pepper of Florida, and Senator Graham of North Carolina, were at the top of the list that the CIO committee publicly announced it would seek to return to the Senate.

The CIO Political Action Committee and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, are responsible for President Truman stabbing the South in the back in 1948 by sending his Civil Rights message to the Congress. The CIO Political Action Committee and the National Association for Advancement of Colored People are working hand in hand to promote the Truman program to break down all vestige of segregation in the South.

After the CIO Political Action Committee raised their slush fund to elect their chosen few to Congress, the leaders walked over to the White House and told Mr. Truman what they had done. Mr. Truman told the group "you are doing a great political service for your country."

Jack Kroll, the National Director of the CIO Political Action Committee, was given the million dollars to go into the various states and start the ball rolling for their hand-picked candidates.

One of the first states Mr. Kroll visited was South Carolina. I have a picture of him taken while here and there was a front page story attacking me and the stand I had made for South Carolina Democracy and commending my opponent, who, of course, supported Truman.

The laboring people of South Carolina know I have been their friend. No one can cite one act of mine in public life which has been

against the interests of the working man. Furthermore, during my service in the State Senate and also since I have been Governor, I can point to as many accomplishments in behalf of those who work in our mills and industrial plants as can any other man in public life in South Carolina.

I believe in collective bargaining and the right of labor to organize, and I am opposed to taking from labor any of the gains they have made during the last two decades. The CIO Political Action Committee has not sent agents to this State to fight my election to the United States Senate because I am unfriendly to labor. They have been sent here by Harry Truman because I led the fight for Southern Democracy in 1948, and my opponent deserted the Democratic Party of South Carolina to support Truman.

Mr. Truman has even gone so far as to use the White House as a sounding board against me in this race. He thought he could give out a statement about me and Governor Wright not being Democrats and that would hurt me and help my opponent in this campaign. Well, I tell you it has boomeranged.

The Democrats of South Cardina resent the President injecting himself into this campaign, they resent the sending of Senate investigators down here to investigate not both sides but just the States Rights Democrats who had the courage in 1948 to fight back against Truman and his program. Our people also resent the outside interference from the CIO Political Action Committee and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in seeking to line up blocs of votes for my opponent.

The CIO Political Action Committee is the spear-head of the movement under way in Washington to abolish segregation in the South and, by federal fiat, force negroes into our mills to take the jobs of white workers now employed; to force a mixing of races in our schools, in our places of recreation, and in our hotels and our eating places.

The CIO at its last national convention demanded the passage of FEPC, the abolishment of segregation in the armed forces, a ban on segregation in interstate travel, and the whole Truman Civil Rights program.

Now let me read to you from a pamphlet of the CIO Political Action Committee which is supporting my opponent and opposing me. It says:

"Locker rooms, showers, toilet facilities, cafeterias, and lunch rooms are often segregated because of fear some workers may not want to share their use with others. There is no justification for a policy of segregation in the use of facilities," the CIO declares and the Union will not countenance it.

When management requests segregation in any form, now that means anywhere in the mill or in recreational activities such as the textile league baseball team; "it should be vigorously opposed by the union."

The CIO-PAC pamphlet goes further and says that after segregation is broken down in the mills, there must be no objection to mixing the sexes and ^{says} there is no difference between negro women working under white men and white women working under negro men.

Just think of that - and the organization promoting that kind of doctrine is supporting my opponent.

The CIO, through its general counsel, Arthur J. Goldberg, intervened in the recent segregation cases in the Supreme Court and

urged the court to break down all segregation in accordance with their instructions which I have read you. Not only that, but this same **Arthur** Goldberg has ordered all CIO offices in the South to disregard our state laws against segregation on all properties they own or lease.

CIO-PAC is the most active supporter of the FEPC legislation and I have a pamphlet showing how they are seeking to ram this iniquitous Truman anti-segregation program down our throats. This law which the CIO-PAC is promoting would force mill management to have the same percentage of white and colored workers as the percentage of white and colored workers in the county. If management did not replace white workers and bring about that percentage, it would be discrimination against the negro under the FEPC and the manager of the mill would be shipped off to be tried in a federal court away from home.

That is the kind of stuff Harry Truman, the man my opponent supported for President, is trying to ram down our throats. That is the kind of stuff the CIO-PAC, which is supporting my opponent and fighting me, is promoting and they cannot deny it.

What I want to know is why the CIO-PAC organization is so anxious to get my opponent back to Washington.

I ask my opponent here and now--Why are you accepting the support of a national organization which is promoting a program that will bring about a mixing of the races in our textile mills and force upon our workers conditions they do not want and will not accept?

My opponent deserted the Democratic Party of South Carolina to join with the CIO Political Action Committee and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in supporting

Truman. Therefore, he cannot escape his part of the responsibility for the program the President and minority bloc organizations are now trying to ram down the throats of the people of this State.

The people of Florida would not stand for it. The people of North Carolina would not stand for it. And, the people of South Carolina are not going to stand for it.